

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 10, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 13

Introduced by Senator Yee

May 24, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, as amended, Yee. Immigration reform: F3 and F4 visa categories.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to ~~reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and F4 visa categories~~ *support immigration reform efforts that do not hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and F4 visa categories, or that end the discrimination against same-sex couples*. The measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take a comprehensive, bipartisan, and well reasoned approach to immigration issues that maintains the fair and appropriate priority for family ~~reunification~~ *reunification, including same-sex partners*.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital part
- 2 of California's growing economy, diverse cultural fabric, and
- 3 changing demographics; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Immigrants fuel California's economy through
- 5 their labor and entrepreneurship, comprising approximately
- 6 one-third of California's labor force and figuring prominently in
- 7 key economic sectors such as agriculture, construction,
- 8 manufacturing, and services; and

1 WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been proposed that offers
2 a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million undocumented
3 immigrants already living in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the proposed law eliminates the F4
5 visa category so that United States citizens will no longer be able
6 to sponsor their brothers and sisters. It also places an age cap on
7 the F3 visa category so that United States citizens can only sponsor
8 their adult children if they are not more than 30 years old; and

9 WHEREAS, Eliminating the ability of United States citizens to
10 sponsor their loved ones such as brothers, sisters, and adult married
11 children 31 years of age and older, runs counter to the family values
12 that are a cornerstone of our nation. It is also counterproductive
13 since it limits the ability of immigrant families to contribute to the
14 entrepreneurship and innovation that have been vital drivers of
15 economic growth throughout our nation's history; and

16 *WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the proposed law also does not offer*
17 *same-sex couples the same preference as heterosexual couples;*
18 *and*

19 *WHEREAS, The inability of United States citizens to sponsor*
20 *their same-sex partner will divide families, and this practice clearly*
21 *holds LGBT families in a second-class status; and*

22 WHEREAS, People with their families are happier, healthier,
23 and more able to succeed than those living apart for years on end.
24 By pooling resources, families can do together what they cannot
25 do alone—start businesses, create jobs, and contribute more to the
26 general welfare; and

27 WHEREAS, Eliminating the F4 and altering the F3 visa
28 categories will have a profound impact on Asian Americans and
29 Pacific Islanders. In November 2012, there were 4.3 million people
30 in the family immigration backlog, nearly one-half of whom were
31 from Asian countries. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
32 sponsored over 40 percent of all family-based visas in 2010. Some
33 Asian immigrants have been forced to wait as long as 23 years to
34 be reunited with their families in the United States, largely due to
35 the limitations and inefficiencies of our legal immigration system;
36 and

37 *WHEREAS, One and one-half million Latinos are on the waiting*
38 *list for family reunification, making up one-third of the backlog,*
39 *with some waiting as long as 20 years; and*

1 WHEREAS, We support the expansion of availability of H-1B
2 visas as well as other visas necessary to bring needed workers into
3 our country to grow our economy; and

4 WHEREAS, We commend the efforts of the federal government
5 in working towards a comprehensive reform measure that is
6 compassionate to the immigrant, protects our nation's economy,
7 and safeguards our national security while upholding the dignity
8 of the United States Constitution. However, we strongly encourage
9 congressional representatives to reexamine the possible elimination
10 of the F4 visa category and modification of the F3 visa category;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, A bipartisan, comprehensive workable immigration
13 reform package must be based not only on a path towards
14 permanent residency and citizenship, but also on the promotion
15 of strong and healthy families who are the core of our vibrant
16 nation; now, therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
18 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
19 respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the
20 United States to ~~reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to~~
21 ~~hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and~~
22 ~~F4 visa categories~~ *support immigration reform efforts that do not*
23 *hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and*
24 *F4 visa categories, or that end the discrimination against same-sex*
25 *couples; and be it further*

26 *Resolved,* That the Legislature urges the President and the
27 Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive, bipartisan,
28 and well-reasoned approach to solving our nation's broken
29 immigration system, while maintaining the fair and appropriate
30 priority for family ~~reunification~~ *reunification, including same-sex*
31 *partners; and be it further*

32 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
33 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
34 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
35 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
36 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
37 States.

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